(c) the source of gas to fulfil the requirements of various States, including West Bengal, Jharkhand and Bihar, through which the proposed pipelines are supposed to traverse?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has issued authorizations to GAIL (India) Limited for laying 5 new natural gas pipelines in the country, including the 876 km long Jagdishpur-Haldia pipeline.

(b) The project has to be completed within 36 months from the start of the project, *i.e.*, from the date of first notification under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962. The work has not been awarded.

(c) Jagdishpur-Haldia pipeline will have a provision for bi-directional flow. The sources of gas indicated for the pipeline are Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imported by Petronet LNG Limited and Hazira LNG Limited, and indigenous gas, including from the offshore fields of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) in Krishna-Godavari basin.

Payment of taxes by foreign companies in India

*74. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign companies are not paying Capital Gains Tax in India for their property and share holding gains;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that they are not paying tax, on the above gains, even to their own countries; and

(c) if so, what is the revenue loss to Government on account of these foreign companies, which have claimed exemption in both India and in their own countries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Foreign companies are not required to pay tax in India on capital gains arising from transfer of property or shares if they are resident of the countries with whom India's Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement provides for residence based taxation of such gains. This means that the gains are taxable in the country in which the foreign company is resident.

(b) The tax liability of a foreign company on capital gains in its country of residence depends on the domestic law of that country.

(c) It is not possible to quantify the revenue loss to the Government on account of the companies which have claimed exemption from tax on capital gains in India as well as in their respective countries as the relevant data is not available.

Availability of newspapers at airports during flight

*75. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some passengers were offloaded from a private airline flight recently because they had required for a Hindi Newspaper in the aircraft;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take or have taken action against the airlines for insulting the National Language;

(c) how many newspapers/dailies have been prescribed for the passengers in the waiting lounges at different airports in the country, paper-wise, language-wise and airport-wise;

(d) whether the Ministry has devised any criteria for subscription of regional dailies for the passengers in the aircrafts; and